



EMPLOYEE BULLETIN

EB No. 1308

15 November 1985

DCI'S LETTER TO SENATOR DURENBERGER, CHAIRMAN, SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Following is the text of the DCI's letter responding to Senator Durenberger's critical remarks to the press cited in the Washington Post and other papers on 14 November 1985:

"When Congressional oversight of the Intelligence Community is conducted off-the-cuff through the news media and involves the repeated compromise of sensitive intelligence sources and methods, not to mention unsubstantiated appraisals of performance, it is time to acknowledge that the process has gone seriously awry.

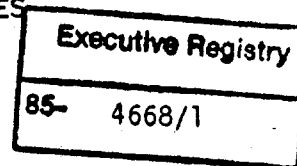
"Your remarks to the press as cited in the Washington Post and other newspapers on 14 November are the most recent example. I am dismayed by your comments regarding our alleged "failure to understand the Soviet Union," particularly in light of the fact that this is the first time you have expressed such concern over our work in this area. Recently the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board examined intelligence support to arms control. In his report, Henry Kissinger, who has led this effort, stated, "these analyses are far better than anything I saw on the subject when I was in government."

"Your alleged comments that we do not consider in longer range evaluations brewing crises such as the Philippines, the rise of Shiite Muslim fundamentalism or the energy problem are tragically wrong. These are all areas where the Intelligence Community has produced an enormous number of long range studies over the last six years or more and where we have been far out in front. Your remarks betray a lack of familiarity with the many intelligence studies in the SSCI vault.

"Your views on the quality of our work in all of these areas are directly contradicted by statements you and a number of other members of the Committee have made privately about the high quality of our work generally and on these problems in particular. I can only wonder at the contrast between what you say to us privately and what you say to the news media.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PERMANENT SELECT
COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515



November 21, 1985

Honorable William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Bill:

Attached for your information only is a letter Andy Ireland, Dick Cheney, Bob Livingston and I sent today to Chairman Durenberger of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

Sincerely,



Bob Stump
Ranking Minority Member

LEE H. HAMILTON
DAVE MCURDY, OKLAHOMA
ANTHONY C. BILLENSON, CALIFORNIA
ROBERT W. EASTENMEIER, WISCONSIN
DAN DANIEL, VIRGINIA
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DICK CHENEY, WYOMING
BOB LIVINGSTON, LOUISIANA
BOB MCWEL, OHIO

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

Executive Registry

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November 21, 1985

Honorable Dave Durenberger
Chairman
Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Room 211, Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We recently read with dismay in the newspapers of remarks attributed to you which disparage the Director of Central Intelligence and the institution which he heads. As Republican Members of the House Intelligence Committee, we deplore these inaccurate characterizations of Bill Casey and the fine Agency he leads. The intelligence community has made enormous strides under Bill Casey's stewardship. Because of his insightful and effective direction, U.S. intelligence is in far better shape today than it was before he became Director of Central Intelligence. The comments attributed to you impugn the reputation and integrity of Bill Casey and the dedicated employees who serve under him.

The practice seems to have developed by which some Members of the Senate Intelligence Committee discuss intelligence issues in the public limelight rather than within the customary congressional intelligence oversight relationship. We hope you would understand and agree that the debate of intelligence policies and issues is much different than the debate of tax policy or the deficit. Quiet discretion is absolutely essential in intelligence oversight. You are correct in stating that your efforts to redefine the Senate Intelligence Committee's oversight role to encourage the public release of more information has created an uncomfortable feeling in Congress, as well it should. The recent leaks of intelligence issues in the press call for all of us to reassess any concept about encouraging executive and legislative officials to discuss intelligence issues in public.

Your recurring theme that the intelligence community needs to reassess its long-term objectives and resource allocation decisions is appropriate. However, that reassessment should not take place in the public press. You are correct that the Senate needs to reevaluate its intelligence oversight role and we respectfully suggest that your Committee should evaluate critically its own performance, as our committee is doing.

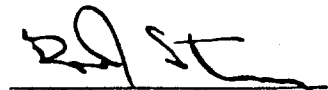
We realize this letter is an unusual step to record our concern in reading comments attributed to you in the newspapers but it is imperative to set

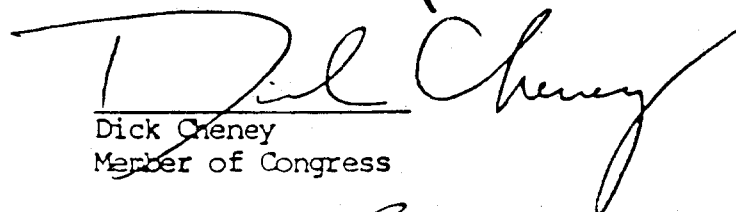
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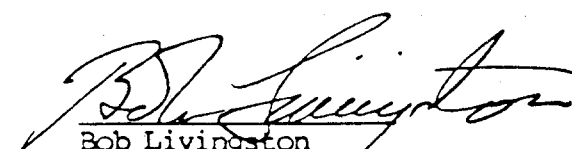
the record straight. Because of the nature and the position of the DCI and employees at the Central Intelligence Agency, they are not at liberty to respond to your unfounded allegations and to demonstrate to the public just how fine their performance has been. We would all agree that nothing is served by attacks on the dedicated men and women in the intelligence community who risk their lives in service to their country in support of the ideas and principles that we all hold so dear.

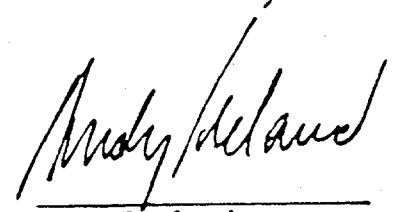
We hope that we can work with you and with the Members of both intelligence oversight committees on ways to improve and expand our intelligence capabilities and to respond to the growing threats to our Nation's security. We strongly believe, however, that public disparagement in the press of our Nation's dedicated intelligence officials contributes nothing to this process.

Sincerely,


Bob Stump
Ranking Minority Member


Dick Cheney
Member of Congress


Bob Livingston
Member of Congress


Andy Ireland
Member of Congress

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